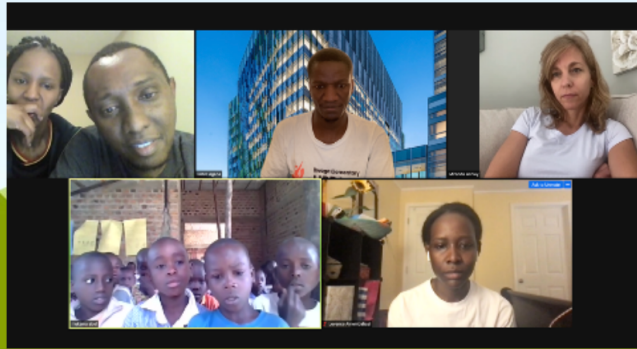




Bwoga Elementary
LIBRARY
Serving the Community

**GIVING EVERY CHILD IN
BWOGA AN OPPORTUNITY**
To Read Wide and Dream Big



BWOGA ELEMENTARY LIBRARY (BEL) INITIATIVE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends of the BEL Initiative,

The BEL team would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the BEL initiative. Your generosity has been a driving force behind BEL's efforts to make a positive impact in the lives of Bwoga children. BEL made great progress in 2022, and we are honored to have dedicated individuals like you that are part of our story. Indeed, we are grateful for all that you have done to support our organization. Our mission, as always, is to create a resourceful place – a library – where the children of Bwoga can access books and other opportunities to enable them to exploit their potentials. We want these children to dream big! Toward this end, the BEL team is happy to share with you our 2022 annual report, highlighting the progress that we are continuing to make together.

1. Library Construction

We are progressing well toward finishing the library. We have finished most parts of the library structure including plastering. The remaining construction work involves painting, flooring, plumbing, and electrical installation. We expect to finish the library construction by July 2023, and we expect to officially open the library in December 2023.



Library structure showing the front and main entrance.



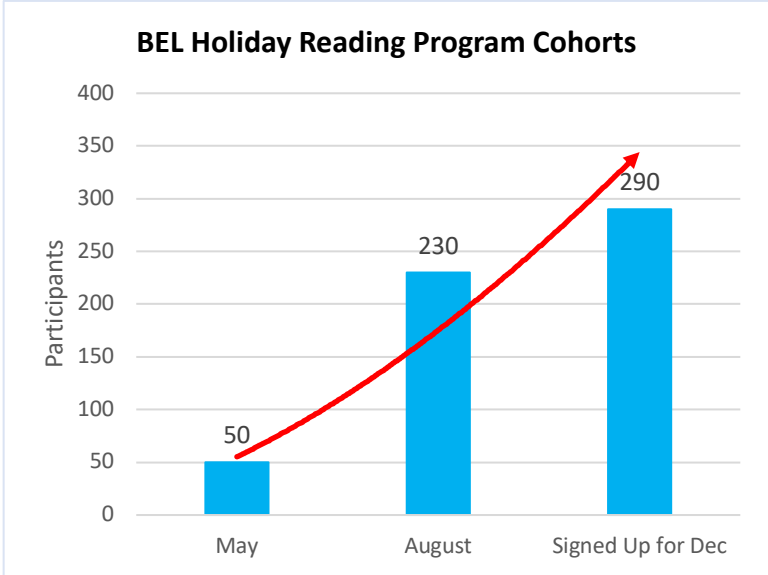
Back of the library showing complete plastering work.

2. BEL Holiday/Summer Reading Program

We launched the BEL Holiday Reading Program in April 2022. The aim of the program is to promote reading and comprehension among Bwoga children (primarily, kindergarten to 5th grade). So far, we have conducted two cohorts of the reading program. The cohorts are about 4 weeks long, with the curriculum developed in cooperation with the local elementary school. In a typical meeting, children spend half of the time engaged in reading, and the other half engaged in activities related to character-building or environmental education. The sessions/cohorts are led by a local elementary schoolteacher, and high school or college student volunteers. We are pleased to report that the Holiday Reading program has become increasingly popular, with each

succeeding cohort seeing larger numbers than the one before. This reality has given BEL an opportunity to promote reading, a much-needed service in the Bwoga community.

Note: We did not carry out the December reading program because the country was under quarantine following the Ebola outbreak in Uganda in October 2022.



3. BEL Scholarship Fund

BEL started a scholarship fund in January 2022. This fund targets students who have academic potential but face great financial need. In 2022, BEL invested \$3,600 in scholarships, sponsoring 12 students (7 girls and 5 boys). The education completion rate in Bwoga is low, much lower than the national average. For example, less than one percent of families in Bwoga have a child who has completed post-secondary education. The main reasons for this low rate of school completion are poverty and lack of supportive learning environments and infrastructure. The BEL scholarship covers tuition and school supplies (about \$400 per student per academic year). Scholarship recipients are chosen based on set criteria, including gender and the extent of financial need. Because many families in Bwoga are poor, BEL hopes to expand the scholarship to 15 students in 2023. The BEL team is excited to report that we had three sponsored students (2 girls and 1 boy) graduate from elementary school. The two girls got above average grades in national exit exams, guaranteeing them a spot at a competitive high school. The boy got average grade and should also be able to join a good high school. We share below two stories from two BEL scholarship recipients, who will be joining high school in February 2023.



My name is Edgar Twinomujuni. I am 13 years old, and I am in primary seven class. I live at school. I have four sisters who are older than me. All my sisters dropped out of school before finishing O-level, but I hope to go to Mbarara High and finish secondary school with some help. I want to be electrical engineer because I like electricity. I like soccer, and I am the captain of my school's soccer team.



My name is Ritah Nuwahereza. I am in P.7 class and my favorite subject in school is English. I like dancing and singing. I am 12 years old. I want to go Maryhill High School. I want to become a doctor because it is cool to heal people. I have other seven siblings, none who are in school. I am so grateful for the BEL scholarship opportunity. I believe with support I will be able to achieve my dreams of becoming a doctor.

Note: Two new friends joined BEL in 2022 and agreed to sponsor two BEL kids. So, BEL will add two beneficiaries, growing our scholarship recipients from 12 to 14.

4. Fundraising

BEL's 2022 goal was to raise **\$15,000**. We are happy to report that we surpassed that goal by raising **\$20,276**. BEL's fund-raiser campaigns were highlighted by our first ever Louisville (KY) summer fundraiser. At this fund raiser we had about 80 participants and we raised \$6600. BEL also hosted other fundraiser campaigns including a "Hope Worldwide" Boston fundraiser, and BEL 's December annual virtual fundraiser. In addition, BEL conducted a fundraising campaign starting on Giving Tuesday through December 30th on three platforms: GoFundMe, a silent auction, and BEL website. We are encouraged by the success of these efforts. Thank you for your

involvement with BEL in 2022 --- contributing financially, working with and encouraging us, sharing with others about the BEL project, and so forth. No act of kindness is too small, and everything you did helped. We will expand our fundraising efforts in 2023 with a goal of raising \$30,000.

Thank you, again, for your support. We are excited and looking forward to seeing BEL transform Bwoga by providing resources and creating opportunities that will help many Bwoga children develop their talents and other essential life skills, such as being able to read well. We are grateful for your efforts and donations that continue to make BEL's work possible. You can always get involved with BEL --- share your thoughts and pieces of advice with us, partner with BEL, volunteer at the library, sponsor a child, etc. You can learn more about BEL's 2022 highlights on [BEL's Youtube video](#). We'll end by saying that we still welcome financial support to help complete the construction and equipping of the library, bolster the BEL Scholarship fund, secure more educational materials for the students, and so on. Please consider donating through our website: [belprojects](#) or on our [GoFundMe](#) page.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones in 2023!
The BEL Team